

Amendments to the Drawings

Fig. 3B has been amended to insert a missing “=” after “creatorDN” (see 341).

No new matter has been introduced with this drawing amendment.

REMARKS

The Specification and Drawings have been amended to correct errors. Claims 1 - 2, 4, and 19 - 20 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Applicants are not conceding in this application that the amended and/or cancelled claims of the application are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the claim amendments and cancellations have been directed toward facilitating expeditious prosecution of the application and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the now-cancelled claims and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 7, 9 - 10, 12 - 13, and 15 - 26 remain in the application.

I. Proposed Replacement Drawing

A proposed replacement drawing is provided herewith for **Fig. 3B**, as discussed above in “Amendments to the Drawings”. No new matter has been introduced with this proposed replacement drawing.

II. Rejection Under 35 U. S. C. §102(e)

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action dated June 4, 2007 (hereinafter, “the Office Action”) states that Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 7, 9 - 10, 12 - 13, and 15 - 26 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Publication 2004/0168073 to Bourne et al. (hereinafter, “Bourne”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of Applicants' independent Claims 1, 4, and 19 - 20 specifies "the key distribution information comprises at least two key elements" (see, for example, line 7 of Claim 1, emphasis added) and further specifies limitations of each key element (see, for example, lines 8 - 14 of Claim 1). Applicants find no teaching in Bourne of key distribution information that comprises at least two key elements, and in particular, where each of the key elements of this key distribution information comprises "an encrypted version of the first key ... compris[ing] the first key encrypted using a second key that is usable only by the identified user, user group, process, or process group for decrypting the encrypted version of the first key ..." (quoting from lines 8 - 14 of Claim 1). Note that this claim language specifies the "first key" in the singular; that is, each key element encrypts that same first key.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 4, and 19 - 20 are patentable over Bourne, and that dependent Claims 2 - 3, 6 - 7, 9 - 10, 12 - 13, 15 - 18, and 21 - 26 are patentable by virtue of (at least) the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)